

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a computing environment, a method ~~for~~ to obtaining taxonomy information for one or more nodes in a taxonomy, the method comprising:

~~an act of~~ receiving a request for taxonomy-related information, the request including a first key representing identification data identifying a node within the taxonomy and a second key representing relationship data identifying a plurality of specified relationships a node is to have with the identified node;

~~an act of~~ extracting the first key representing the identification data and the second key representing the relationship data from the request;

~~an act of~~ querying one or more databases using the first key in accordance with the identification data and the second key in accordance with the relationship data to obtain taxonomy-related information for any nodes having ~~the~~ at least one of the plurality of specified relationships with the identified node, the taxonomy-related information being presentable in hierarchical format, the hierarchy being based on the node's relationship with other nodes in the taxonomy, the nodes of each database comprising ~~or being logically ordered under~~ at least one of a plurality of root nodes; and

~~an act of~~ receiving taxonomy-related information having at least one identifier that corresponds to a node having at least one of the plurality of specified relationships with the identified node in response to the query.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising, returning the taxonomy-related information in response to the request.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the identification data comprises an identifier of a taxonomy and the relationship data indicates a root node relationship, and wherein returning the taxonomy-related information in response to the request comprises returning an identifier of at least one root node within the taxonomy.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein returning the taxonomy-related information in response to the request comprises identifying the relationship along with each other node identifier that corresponds to the relationship data.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the identification data comprises an identifier of a taxonomy and a node identifier of a node within the taxonomy, and wherein returning the taxonomy-related information in response to the request comprises returning at least one other node identifier that corresponds to the relationship data.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the relationship data indicates a parent relationship.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the relationship data indicates a child relationship.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein returning the taxonomy-related information in response to the request comprises returning an identifier of another taxonomy.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein returning the taxonomy-related information in response to the request further comprises returning at least one node identifier corresponding to at least one node in another taxonomy.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the relationship data indicates an equivalence relationship.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein returning the taxonomy-related information in response to the request further comprises returning at least one attribute value that indicates whether a node corresponding to that attribute value comprises a classification node.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein returning the taxonomy- related information in response to the request further comprises returning at least one text string.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the request includes at least one other set of identification data and relationship data, and wherein the response returns data corresponding to the request in the order in which the identification data and relationship data was received such that the first set of identification data and relationship data corresponds to a first part of the response and the at least one other set of identification data and relationship data corresponds to a second part of the response.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the request comprises an XML message, and wherein returning the taxonomy-related information in response to the request further comprises formatting the response as an XML message.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the taxonomy-related information corresponds to a taxonomy maintained at a UDDI server.

16. (Currently Amended) A recordable-type computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions ~~operable~~ configured to execute the method of claim 1 in a computer system.

17. (Currently Amended) In a computing environment, a method ~~for~~ to obtaining taxonomy information for one or more nodes in a taxonomy comprising a hierarchy of nodes where the taxonomy categorizes web services or web service providers, the method comprising:

- ~~an act of~~ constructing a request for taxonomy data regarding one or more specified nodes, the specified nodes comprising ~~or being logically ordered under~~ at least one of a plurality of root nodes, the request including a first key representing identification data from which a node within the taxonomy ~~may be identified~~ is identifiable and a second key representing at least one relationship qualifier that identifies a plurality of desired relationships the node is to have with the specified nodes;
- ~~an act of~~ communicating the request to a server;
- ~~an act of~~ receiving a response from the server regarding the requested taxonomy data including the first key representing identification information regarding the node corresponding to the identification data and the second key representing relationship information corresponding to the relationship qualifier; and
- ~~an act of~~ presenting information about at least a portion of the taxonomy in hierarchical format, the hierarchy being based on the node's relationship with other nodes in the taxonomy, including the received response to the computer user, the information based on the identification information and based on the relationship information in the response.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the identification data comprises a unique identifier and the relationship qualifier indicates a root node relationship with the taxonomy, and wherein the response includes information about at least one root node in the taxonomy.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the identification data further includes node identification data from which a node within the taxonomy is ~~operable~~ configured to be identified.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the relationship qualifier indicates a parent node of a node identified by the node identification data, and wherein the response includes information about the parent node.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the relationship qualifier indicates a child node of a node identified by the node identification data, and wherein the response includes information about at least one child node, if any exist.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the relationship qualifier indicates an equivalent node of a node identified by the node identification data.

23. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein receiving the response from the server further includes receiving an attribute value that indicates whether a node in the taxonomy is intended as a classification node.

24. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein receiving the response from the server further includes receiving at least one text string that corresponds to a node in the taxonomy.

25. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein constructing a request for taxonomy data comprises constructing an XML message.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein communicating the request to a server comprises sending the XML message to a UDDI server.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions ~~operable~~ configured to execute the method of claim 17 in a computer system.

28. (Currently Amended) In a computing environment, a system ~~for that obtaining~~ taxonomy information for one or more nodes in a taxonomy, the system comprising:

a client, the client including an application program that presents taxonomy-related data using received taxonomy data regarding one or more specified nodes, the taxonomy-related data including information about at least a portion of the taxonomy in a hierarchical format, the hierarchy being based on the node's relationship with other nodes in the taxonomy, the specified nodes comprising ~~or being logically ordered under~~ at least one of a plurality of root nodes, the received taxonomy data including a first key representing identification information regarding a node corresponding to the identification data and a second key representing relationship information corresponding to a relationship qualifier; and

a server that maintains taxonomy data, the server configured to receive taxonomy-related requests including a first key and a second key from the client seeking identification information according to the first key regarding an existing node and relationship information according to the second key that indicates ~~the~~ a plurality of specified relationships between the identified node and the specified nodes, and in response to each request, to locate the relationship information corresponding to the specified nodes in the taxonomy and to return a response to the client.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28 wherein the relationship information corresponding to the node in the specified taxonomy comprises a root qualifier.

30. (Original) The system of claim 28 wherein the relationship information corresponding to the node in the specified taxonomy comprises a parent qualifier.

31. (Original) The system of claim 28 wherein the relationship information corresponding to the node in the specified taxonomy comprises a child qualifier.

32. (Original) The system of claim 28 further comprising a database in which the server maintains the taxonomy data.

33. (Original) The system of claim 28 wherein the taxonomy-related requests from the client comprise XML messages.

34. (Original) The system of claim 28 wherein the response to the client comprises an XML message.

35. (Original) The system of claim 28 wherein the server comprises a UDDI server.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28 wherein the client provides the request to the server by calling an application programming interface, the application programming interface formatting the request as a message ~~for~~ to ~~communicate~~ing with the server and returning the response to the client in response to the application programming interface call.

37-40. (canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) In a computing environment, a system ~~for that~~ obtaining taxonomy information for one or more nodes in a taxonomy, the system comprising:

means for receiving a request that ~~indicates~~ includes a first key representing identification data from which a node within the taxonomy ~~may be identified~~ is identifiable and a second key representing relationship data ~~that indicates the~~ identifying a plurality of desired relationships between the node and the identified node corresponding to the taxonomy;

means for extracting the first key representing the identification data and second key representing the relationship data from the request;

means for querying one or more databases using the first key in accordance with the identification data and the second key in accordance with the relationship data to obtain taxonomy-related information for any nodes having ~~the~~ at least one of the plurality of specified relationships with the identified node, the taxonomy-related information being presentable in hierarchical format, the hierarchy being based on the node's relationship with other nodes in the taxonomy, the nodes of each database comprising ~~or being logically ordered under~~ at least one of a plurality of root nodes; and

means for receiving taxonomy-related information having at least one identifier that corresponds to ~~the~~ a node having at least one of the plurality of specified relationships with the identified node in response to the query.

42. (Original) The system of claim 41 further comprising means for returning the taxonomy-related information in response to the request.

43. (Original) The system of claim 41 wherein the means for querying the database comprises request handling means in a UDDI-server environment.